

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members are combined with one another through a sealing material layer to constitute a ceramic block, each of the above-mentioned rectangular columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween;

a sealing material layer is also formed on a circumference portion of said ceramic block; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates,

wherein, on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of said porous ceramic member of said ceramic block, the maximum width L (mm) of the crisscross portion of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than the minimum width l (mm) of said sealing material layer.

Claim 2 (Original): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1,

wherein the outer circumferential face in the length direction has a curved face.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,

wherein on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of the porous ceramic member of the ceramic block, the maximum width L (mm) of the crisscross portion of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than the minimum width l (mm) of said sealing material layer, with respect to the crisscross portions of all the sealing material layer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1,

wherein a catalyst supporting film is applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,

wherein a catalyst is applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1,

wherein a catalyst supporting film is applied to the sealing material layer.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1,

wherein a catalyst is applied to the sealing material layer.